

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 COME-00 EB-08 L-03 SS-15
SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 DLOS-09
ICA-20 PA-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01 NSC-05 /095 W
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P 080422Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO AMEMBASSY SUVA PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8593
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
HICOMTERPACIF SAIPAN

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 TOKYO 10357

FOR MORRIS BUSBY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIS, PLOS, JA, GN, XP, PP
SUBJECT: JAPAN-GILBERT FISHERY NEGOTIATIONS

1. FOLLOWING ARE TRANSLATIONS FROM JAPANESE LANGUAGE NEWS-PAPERS CONCERNING NEGOTIATIONS BY JAPAN TO SECURE TUNA FISHING RIGHTS IN 200 MILE FISHERY ZONES.

(A) SUISAN TSUSHIN 6/7/78 JAPAN-GILBERTS NEGOTIATIONS REACH SUBSTANTIVE AGREEMENT

TO SET FORTH CONDITIONS FOR ENTRY OF JAPANESE TUNA AND SKIPJACK FISHING VESSELS INTO GILBERT ISLAND 200 MILE FISHERY ZONE, THE THIRD JAPAN-GILBERTS GOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATIONS WERE HELD IN TARAWA FROM MAY 25. SUBSTANTIVE AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED. UPON RETURN TO TOKYO, MR. FUJINAMI (INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS ADVISOR TO THE MINISTRY

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OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY) TOLD THE PRESS, "REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GILBERTS WILL VISIT TOKYO WITHIN JUNE TO FINALIZE THE TEXT OF AGREEMENT AND ANNEX TO IT WITH A HOPE BY THE GILBERTS TO HAVE THE AGREEMENT COME INTO FORCE JULY 1, 1978, ALTHOUGH THIS DUE DATE MAY BE DELAYED IN VIEW OF JAPANESE CONSTITUTIONAL PROCEDURES."

THE AGREEMENT CONTAINS:

1. JAPAN TO PAY BASIC FISHING FEE AMOUNTING TO US\$600,000/YEAR.
2. JAPAN TO PAY ADDITIONAL FISHING FEE FOR CATCH IN EXCESS OF 11,500 MT/YEAR (2,000 MT FOR TUNA LONGLINERS AND 9,500 MT FOR SKIPJACK POLE-AND-LINERS). AMOUNTS OF FISHING FEES ARE EQUIVALENT TO 5 PERCENT OF VALUE OF CATCH (US\$1,350/MT) BY TUNA LONGLINERS AND TO 5 PERCENT OF THE VALUE OF CATCH (US\$500/MT) BY SKIPJACK POLE-AND-LINERS.
3. NUMBER OF JAPANESE VESSELS PERMISSIBLE TO ENTER ZONE IS 400 VESSELS. APPLICATIONS IN EXCESS OF THIS MAXIMUM NUMBER WILL BE CONSIDERED BY THE GILBERTS.
4. FISHING AREA IS WITHIN 3-200 MILES OF COAST.
5. PURSE SEINERS ARE PROHIBITED UNTIL CONDITIONS OF STOCKS ARE MADE KNOWN.

DEPENDING ON AN OUTCOME OF SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM'S POLICY, ABOVE TENTATIVE MEASURES WILL BE TERMINATED AT END OF MARCH 1979 IN ORDER TO SHIFT THEM TO FORMAL AGREEMENT. IN THAT CASE, THE BASIC ANNUAL FISHING FEE AND MAXIMUM ANNUAL CATCH QUANTITY WILL BE REVISED PROPORTIONATELY TO A PERIOD UNCLASSIFIED

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OF NINE MONTHS.

WITH REGARD TO JAPANESE OPERATIONS FOR ABOUT THREE MONTHS FROM APRIL 1 TO DATE PROVISIONAL MEASURES BECOME EFFECTIVE, IT HAS BEEN AGREED THAT JAPAN WILL PROVIDE THE GILBERTS WITH FISHERIES EQUIPMENT (PROBABLY FISHING VESSELS) WORTH US\$150,000.

B. SUISAN KEIZAI SHIMBUN 6/7/78 NEWSPAPER COMMENT

THIS AGREEMENT DIFFERS GREATLY FROM AGREEMENT WITH PAPUA NEW GUINEA, IN WHICH PNG HAS SOLD THE FISHING GROUND TO JAPAN IN AMOUNT EQUIVALENT TO 320 MILLION YEN (ABOUT 1.5 U.S. MILLION DOLLARS) AND AS MANY JAPANESE FISHING VESSELS AS JAPAN WISHES CAN ENTER THE PNG ZONE, INDICATING PNG'S LESS CONCERN OVER THE RESOURCES. WHEREAS, THE GILBERTS DO CARE ABOUT RESOURCES, AND HAVE INTRODUCED THE LIMITED ENTRY FORMULA AND ARE TRYING TO SET THE AMOUNT OF FISHING FEE IN PROPORTION TO THE CATCH. IN THIS REGARD, THE GILBERTS APPEAR TO BE THEORETICAL IN THEIR WAY OF THINKING.

UNDER THE AGREEMENT WITH PNG, IT IS RISKY FOR JAPANESE

VESSELS AS COST OF OPERATION WILL BE VERY HIGH WHENEVER THE CATCH IS POOR. THERE IS NO SUCH FEAR WITHIN THE GILBE GILBERTS ZONE, AND AS SUCH, THE FISHING FEE TO THE GILBERTS MIGHT BE CHEAPER THAN THAT TO PNG. THE GILBERTS HAVE NOT ADOPTED THE PNG FORMULA WHICH THEY THINK WOULD LEAD TO DESTRUCTION OF THE RESOURCES. IN ANY CASE, THESE TWO METHODS WILL EXERT INFLUENCE ON THE SOUTH PACIFIC

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FOR MORRIS BUSBY

FORUM COUNTRIES IN THEIR FUTURE FISHERIES NEGOTIATIONS.
MANSFIELD

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